

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04708 071652Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-09 INT-05 HA-05
/126 W

-----002319 080828Z /20

P 071615Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9514
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 4708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP SHUM EAID

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE

1. VICE PRESIDENT JULIO ERNESTO ASTACIO IS TRAVELLING
ON OFFICIAL INVITATION TO MADRID AND PARIS. HE WILL
BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE ANTONIO
RODRIGUEZ PORTH AND THE MINISTER OF PLANNING JOSE
EDUARDO REYES.

2. VISIT TO MADRID WILL BE SEPT 10 TO 18. VICE
PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED HIS HOPE TO SEE
AMBASSADOR TODMAN DURING HIS VISIT TO MADRID. HE
SAID HE INTENDED TO INVITE THE AMBASSADOR TO A
RECEPTION HE WAS GIVING ON SEPT 15.

3. PARIS VISIT IS SCHEDULED SEPT 18 TO 25. THERE
IS INDICATION VICE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTING TO SIGN
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AGREEMENTS ON FRENCH GRANTS OR LOANS FOR SALVADORAN
DEVELOPMENT. SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IS A POSSIBLE
GUARANTEE OR PURCHASE OF A JUST-AUTHORIZED U.S. \$100
MILLION FOREIGN EXCHANGE BOND ISSUE. SALVADORAN
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ALSO AUTHORIZED ACCEPTANCE OF
THREE LOANS FROM FRENCH BANKS FOR PROMOTION OF
SALVADORAN FISHING INDUSTRY.

4. VICE PRESIDENT HAD HOPED ALSO TO VISIT GERMANY. GERMAN GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY WAITED LONG TO RESPOND TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S POUCHED MESSAGE, FINALLY ANSWERING THAT TIMING WAS NOT CONVENIENT, PROPOSING NEXT JANUARY INSTEAD. GERMAN AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO APPEAR BEFORE PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE A PROTEST. COMING AFTER GERMANY'S REFUSAL EARLIER THIS YEAR TO SELL MACHINE GUNS TO EL SALVADOR, A DELICATE STRAIN IN SALVADORAN-GERMAN RELATIONS HAS RESULTED.

5. FACT THAT MINISTER OF PLANNING IS ACCOMPANYING VICE PRESIDENT INDEED INDICATES AN INTENTION TO USE VISIT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR EL SALVADOR'S DEVELOPMENT FINANCING NEEDS. GOES IS SEEKING WAYS TO AVOID THE HUMAN RIGHTS SCRUTINY IMPOSED BY THE U.S. IN ITS PROGRAMS AND NOW BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT A FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION LOANS. QUICK AND FRIENDLY ANSWER BY SPAIN AND FRANCE TO VICE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST TO BE RECEIVED HAS SURELY GIVEN HOPE THAT THESE COUNTRIES MAY BE RESPONSIVE TO EL SALVADOR'S NEEDS WITHOUT IMPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS.
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